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Comment: Dear Leaders:

1

As a US citizen, I join with many others to express our deep concern that these areas not be disturbed to open up new oil reserves.

002
Wildlife

The Teshekpuk(the-shek-puk) Lake region of America's Western Arctic offers unparalleled landscapes and abundant wildlife. From a vast network of coastal lagoons to deep lakes, wet sedge grass meadows and numerous river deltas, the area is prime habitat for caribou, lemmings, snowy owls, Arctic fox and the spectacled eider, a threatened sea duck. During the summer molting season, the region also supports as many as 60,000 geese, the largest concentration in the entire Arctic, and plays an important role in the Inupiat Eskimos' subsistence lifestyle.

003
Special
Designation

In 1977, the Interior Department designated the lake as one of three "Special Areas" within the petroleum reserve requiring "maximum protection" because of their significant natural values. To date, most of the reserve has remained pristine and unmarred by roads, oil rigs and other signs of development. This should continue. The current Bush administration's proposal tries to open up 96 percent of the Reserve's northeast region, including much of the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area, to oil and gas development.

4

There are precious lands far more important than oil speculation for oil companies. I urge you not to open the last remaining areas around Teshekpuk Lake to oil and gas development. Please, adopt a policy that ensures America's entire arctic region is developed in a way that balances the nation's energy needs with a respect for the wilderness values of this amazing land. It is a disgrace that policies to reduce consumption like increased mile per gallon standards for SUVs, trucks and cars are being resisted while claiming we need to open new reserves whose output would be dwarfed by oil saved through conservation. It is hard to believe the administration is interested in anything but corporate greed when they refuse to get serious about reduction in oil usage. They seem to be only interested in increasing usage and production. This is not the right direction for our grandchildren, our nation and the world. There is no crisis requiring the destruction of the arctic for oil or people would be conserving. I do conserve as part of my daily life and if everyone did it would relieve the dependence on oil dramatically. That is what needs to be done.

Thank you for listening to the wisdom and desire of American citizens.

Attached: None